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RELIGIOUS.

A CHRISTIAN'S LIFE A HAPPY LIFE.

When a person labours under a violent fever, every expedient is tried to reduce the wasting malady: The means used, seem for a time to increase the weakness and debility of the patient: but he is thus weakened only that he may eventually become strong. No sooner is the consuming fever abated, than cordials and restoratives are freely administered, which, given before, would have augmented the dangerous symptoms, and thus have hastened on the fatal consequences of the disease.

Thus our heavenly Physician humbles and subdues the proud heart of the sinner; and destroys the feverish thirst and burning desires after sinful gratifications, before he imparts the reviving cordials of pardon and peace, to restore the sin-sick soul to spiritual health and vigour.

Then the bloom of health begins to appear in the sweet tints of peace and joy, of love and humility, of meekness and heavenly-mindedness, which beautify the soul, and cause the believer to shine in the image of his divine Redeemer.

The happy believer now knows his malady and his remedy. He takes with gratitude those medicines which infinite wisdom prescribes. He daily feeds upon Christ by faith and derives strength from this gracious source of blessedness. He feels his own weakness, and experiences the power of Jesus. He loathes himself and truly loves his Saviour, in whose righteousness he appears all lovely in the eyes of his heavenly Father. As a pilgrim, he journeys onwards under the guidance of that Holy Spirit, who dwells in him as in a temple

and who has promised to keep him by his mighty power through faith unto salvation. The world fascinates no longer. The mask falls from its face, and he beholds the idol in its natural deformity. He sees the emptiness of human applause, the madness of ambition. Every thing beneath the sun assumes its true character, whilst he views it through the medium of God's holy word.

He learns to form a proper estimate, too, of temporal things. He prays for grace to use the world as not abusing it; to be moderate in the enjoyment of all created good: knowing that the fashion of this world passeth away.

Has the believer no enjoyment of life? Is he destitute of all rational delights because he makes the Lord his portion. It would be an impeachment of the goodness of God to suppose his service a mere Egyptian bondage.

The true believer in Jesus has the sweetest enjoyment of life. He can eat his meat with singleness of heart, praising God. He can taste the sweets of Christian friendship and domestic life. He can enjoy all the endearing charities of husband, father, brother. He can feel his heart expanding towards the poor, and find his joy in pouring the balm of consolation into the troubled breast. He can delight in all the beauties of natural scenery, and relish all the charms of sound philosophy. He can rejoice in every opening prospect for the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, through institutions devised by Christian wisdom and conducted in Christian simplicity. He can weep in his best moments over the ruins of the fall, not only as felt in his own heart, but as beheld in the abject condition of the millions of mankind. He can rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with